



Population Characteristics

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SCHOOL ENROLLMENT IN THE UNITED STATES: 1972

(Advance data, October 1972 survey)

Of the 8.3 million persons 14 to 34 years old enrolled in college in October 1972, 727,000 were Negroes. College enrollment of blacks increased by 211 percent between 1964 (the first year for which data on fall college enrollment of blacks are available) and 1972. Negro students comprised 9 percent of all college students in October 1972 compared to 5 percent in 1964. These results are based on the Current Population Survey conducted in October 1972 by the Bureau of the Census.

In October 1972, 60.1 million persons 3 to 34 years old were enrolled in school. The number of elementary school students (kindergarten through eighth grade) dropped since the fall of 1971 to a total of 35.4 million because of a decline in the number of births in the United States during the 1960's. However, because of increasing enrollment rates, the number of pupils enrolled in nursery school reached an all-time high of 1.3 million. There were 15.2 million students enrolled in high school and 8.3 million in college.

Enrollment in college has increased considerably in the past 10 years, with nearly all of the increase occurring in public colleges. The number of students attending private colleges was about 2 million in 1972, only about 600,000 greater than in 1962; but the number of students attending public colleges increased from 2.8 to 6.3 million between 1962 and 1972.

Even though the level of college enrollment has been increasing over the past 10 years, there is evidence from this survey that a lower proportion of men of college age are now attending college than during the late 1960's. For example, the college enrollment rate of 18- and 19-year-

old men in 1972 was 38 percent, the same level as in 1962; whereas, 44 percent of men in this age group were attending college in 1969. The enrollment rate of men 20 and 21 years old was higher in 1972, 36 percent, than in 1962, 29 percent; however, in 1969, the rate had been 45 percent. Although enrollment rates for 20- and 21-year olds were lower than for 18- and 19-year olds in 1962, there is no clear evidence that the enrollment rates were different in 1969 or 1972.

The college enrollment rate for women has increased greatly during the past 10 years, and women made up a larger proportion of all college students. In 1962, 21 percent of women between the ages of 18 and 21 were enrolled in college; the rate increased to 30 percent in 1972, which is an increase of 9 percentage points for women compared to 3 percentage points for men. Women made up 35 percent of all college students in 1962 compared to 42 percent in 1972. During the past 4 years, the college enrollment rate for men 20 and 21 years old declined by 8 percentage points, but the rates increased for women by 5 percentage points.

Data on the school enrollment of persons of Spanish origin indicate that persons of college age in this ethnic group were less likely to be in school or to have finished high school than was the total population of college age. About 21 percent of persons of Spanish origin 18 to 24 years old were enrolled in school compared to 29 percent of the total college age population. About 40 percent of persons of Spanish origin compared to 17 percent of the total population 18 to 24 years old were high school dropouts; that is, they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school in October 1972.

Enrollment statistics shown in this report refer to the civilian noninstitutional population reported as enrolled in regular public and private schools and colleges by the middle of October, when the Current Population Survey was conducted. The statistics include both full-time and part-time students and persons who were working in addition to attending school. Children enrolled in "Head Start" programs or similar programs sponsored by local agencies to provide preschool education to young children are counted as enrolled in nursery school or kindergarten as appropriate. These figures may differ from figures on school enrollment reported by other sources, largely because (1) the Bureau of the Census collects data by household interviews, whereas information from other sources is generally based on reports

from school systems and institutions of higher learning; and (2) there are often differences in definitions and time references. Also, enrollment as of October, will usually be lower than enrollment for the whole school year because the latter provides a cumulative count of persons who enter school at different times throughout the year.

Since the figures presented in this report are based on sample data, they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained from a complete census. The sampling variation may be relatively large where the numbers shown are small. A more complete statement on the variability due to sampling, as well as more detailed information about the fall enrollment figures, will be issued in a later report in this series.

Table 1. ENROLLMENT STATUS OF THE POPULATION 3 TO 34 YEARS OLD, BY AGE, RACE, SPANISH ORIGIN, AND SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS: OCTOBER 1972

(Numbers in thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age, race, and Spanish origin	Total population	Enrolled in school					Not enrolled in school					
		Total		Below college level	In college		Total		High school graduate		Not high school graduate	
		Number	Percent of population		Total	Full time	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population	Number	Percent of population
ALL RACES												
Total, 3 to 34 years..	109,585	60,142	54.9	51,829	8,313	6,314	49,443	45.1	32,674	29.8	16,769	15.3
3 and 4 years.....	6,782	1,655	24.4	1,655	-	-	5,127	75.6	-	-	5,127	75.6
5 and 6 years.....	6,896	6,340	91.9	6,340	-	-	557	8.1	-	-	557	8.1
7 to 9 years.....	11,602	11,488	99.0	11,488	-	-	114	1.0	-	-	114	1.0
10 to 13 years.....	16,532	16,419	99.3	16,419	-	-	113	0.7	-	-	113	0.7
14 and 15 years.....	8,295	8,098	97.6	8,093	5	5	197	2.4	-	-	197	2.4
16 and 17 years.....	8,064	7,169	88.9	6,879	290	276	895	11.1	193	2.4	702	8.7
18 and 19 years.....	7,462	3,458	46.3	778	2,680	2,517	4,004	53.7	2,904	38.9	1,100	14.7
20 and 21 years.....	6,955	2,187	31.4	71	2,116	1,886	4,768	68.6	3,542	50.9	1,226	17.6
22 to 24 years.....	10,162	1,505	14.8	44	1,461	956	8,657	85.2	6,915	68.0	1,742	17.1
25 to 29 years.....	14,702	1,259	8.6	30	1,229	507	13,443	91.4	10,591	72.0	2,852	19.4
30 to 34 years.....	12,132	563	4.6	33	531	167	11,569	95.4	8,530	70.3	3,039	25.0
WHITE												
Total, 3 to 34 years..	94,364	51,314	54.4	43,857	7,458	5,678	43,050	45.6	29,222	31.0	13,828	14.7
3 and 4 years.....	5,713	1,359	23.8	1,359	-	-	4,353	76.2	-	-	4,353	76.2
5 and 6 years.....	5,794	5,341	92.2	5,341	-	-	453	7.8	-	-	453	7.8
7 to 9 years.....	9,793	9,703	99.1	9,703	-	-	90	0.9	-	-	90	0.9
10 to 13 years.....	14,048	13,949	99.3	13,949	-	-	98	0.7	-	-	98	0.7
14 and 15 years.....	7,094	6,925	97.6	6,920	5	5	169	2.4	-	-	169	2.4
16 and 17 years.....	6,902	6,134	88.9	5,880	254	242	768	11.1	171	2.5	597	8.7
18 and 19 years.....	6,424	2,993	46.6	582	2,411	2,264	3,431	53.4	2,574	40.1	857	13.3
20 and 21 years.....	6,030	1,967	32.6	50	1,917	1,722	4,063	67.4	3,086	51.2	977	16.2
22 to 24 years.....	8,861	1,328	15.0	32	1,296	848	7,533	85.0	6,126	69.1	1,407	15.9
25 to 29 years.....	13,020	1,135	8.7	17	1,119	454	11,885	91.3	9,536	73.2	2,349	18.0
30 to 34 years.....	10,686	480	4.5	23	456	143	10,206	95.5	7,729	72.3	2,477	23.2
NEGRO												
Total, 3 to 34 years..	13,775	7,959	57.8	7,232	727	525	5,816	42.2	3,093	22.5	2,723	19.8
3 and 4 years.....	955	270	28.3	270	-	-	685	71.7	-	-	685	71.7
5 and 6 years.....	986	887	90.0	887	-	-	99	10.0	-	-	99	10.0
7 to 9 years.....	1,634	1,613	98.7	1,613	-	-	21	1.3	-	-	21	1.3
10 to 13 years.....	2,245	2,230	99.3	2,230	-	-	15	0.7	-	-	15	0.7
14 and 15 years.....	1,091	1,063	97.4	1,063	-	-	28	2.6	-	-	28	2.6
16 and 17 years.....	1,083	970	89.5	938	32	30	113	10.5	21	2.0	92	8.5
18 and 19 years.....	958	410	42.8	181	229	215	547	57.2	319	33.3	229	23.9
20 and 21 years.....	847	187	22.0	19	168	135	661	78.0	425	50.2	235	27.7
22 to 24 years.....	1,181	155	13.1	12	143	86	1,026	86.9	708	60.0	318	26.9
25 to 29 years.....	1,491	97	6.5	10	87	39	1,394	93.5	916	61.5	477	32.0
30 to 34 years.....	1,304	77	5.9	9	68	21	1,227	94.1	703	53.9	524	40.2
SPANISH ORIGIN ¹												
Total, 3 to 34 years..	6,151	3,258	53.0	3,015	242	178	2,893	47.0	1,127	18.3	1,766	28.7
3 and 4 years.....	441	90	20.5	90	-	-	351	79.5	-	-	351	79.5
5 and 6 years.....	465	419	90.0	419	-	-	47	10.0	-	-	47	10.0
7 to 9 years.....	719	710	98.7	710	-	-	10	1.3	-	-	10	1.3
10 to 13 years.....	886	878	99.1	878	-	-	8	0.9	-	-	8	0.9
14 and 15 years.....	470	454	96.7	454	-	-	15	3.3	-	-	15	3.3
16 and 17 years.....	437	367	83.9	353	14	14	70	16.1	3	0.6	68	15.4
18 and 19 years.....	381	158	41.4	88	70	63	223	58.6	106	27.9	117	30.7
20 and 21 years.....	410	70	17.0	10	60	51	340	83.0	168	41.0	172	42.1
22 to 24 years.....	547	54	9.9	5	49	29	493	90.1	241	44.0	252	46.1
25 to 29 years.....	760	40	5.2	6	34	13	721	94.8	346	45.5	375	49.3
30 to 34 years.....	635	19	3.0	4	15	8	616	97.0	264	41.5	352	55.4

- Represents zero.

¹Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

**Table 2. COLLEGE ENROLLMENT RATES OF THE POPULATION 16 TO 24 YEARS OLD, BY AGE AND SEX :
OCTOBER 1962 TO OCTOBER 1972**

(Civilian noninstitutional population)

Age and sex	Percent of population enrolled in college										
	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
MALE											
16 and 17 years.....	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.2	3.7	2.7	3.0	3.2	4.7	3.0	4.4
18 and 19 years.....	37.6	41.2	40.2	44.0	43.3	41.2	42.5	40.1	35.6	34.4	37.7
20 and 21 years.....	36.0	37.8	40.9	44.7	43.6	42.5	39.9	36.0	32.7	31.7	29.4
22 to 24 years.....	20.7	22.6	20.6	22.1	19.4	20.0	20.9	20.5	15.7	19.0	17.4
FEMALE											
16 and 17 years.....	3.8	3.9	3.4	3.3	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.4	3.6	2.5	3.9
18 and 19 years.....	34.3	34.4	34.6	34.4	33.1	31.5	30.7	30.3	26.4	26.0	26.1
20 and 21 years.....	25.6	25.7	22.3	24.0	20.6	22.6	19.9	18.9	18.4	17.3	14.8
22 to 24 years.....	8.7	7.9	8.9	8.7	7.6	6.6	6.3	6.0	4.3	4.0	3.5

Table 3. ENROLLMENT OF THE POPULATION 3 TO 34 YEARS OLD, BY LEVEL OF SCHOOL, CONTROL OF SCHOOL, RACE, AND SPANISH ORIGIN: OCTOBER 1966 TO OCTOBER 1972

(In thousands. Civilian noninstitutional population)

Level and control of school	1972				1971 ²	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966
	All races	White	Negro	Spanish origin ¹						
Total enrolled.....	60,142	51,314	7,959	3,258	61,106	60,357	59,913	58,791	57,656	56,167
Nursery school.....	1,283	1,079	185	61	1,066	1,096	860	816	713	688
Public.....	402	285	113	43	317	333	245	262	230	215
Private.....	881	794	72	18	749	763	615	554	484	473
Kindergarten.....	3,135	2,633	448	241	3,263	3,183	3,276	3,268	3,312	3,114
Public.....	2,636	2,185	402	227	2,689	2,647	2,682	2,709	2,678	2,527
Private.....	499	448	46	14	574	536	594	559	635	587
Elementary school (grades 1 to 8)...	32,242	27,185	4,573	1,879	33,507	33,950	33,788	33,761	33,440	32,916
Public.....	28,693	23,869	4,382	1,705	29,829	30,001	29,825	29,527	28,877	28,208
Private.....	3,549	3,316	191	173	3,678	3,949	3,964	4,234	4,562	4,707
High school (grades 9 to 12).....	15,169	12,959	2,025	834	15,183	14,715	14,553	14,145	13,790	13,364
Public.....	14,015	11,876	1,971	784	14,057	13,545	13,400	12,793	12,498	11,985
Private.....	1,155	1,083	54	50	1,126	1,170	1,153	1,352	1,292	1,377
College.....	8,313	7,458	727	242	8,087	7,413	7,435	6,801	6,401	6,085
Public.....	6,337	5,644	582	213	6,271	5,699	5,439	4,948	4,540	4,178
Private.....	1,976	1,814	145	29	1,816	1,714	1,995	1,854	1,861	1,908

¹Persons of Spanish origin may be of any race.

²These figures are 1960 census based. Enrollment totals adjusted to 1970 census age distribution are: 1,026,000 nursery, 3,151,000 kindergarten, 32,873,000 elementary school, 15,272,000 high school, and 8,175,000 college.